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were, for their time, noble treatises on systematic and historic botany. But, keen and penetrating botanical observer that Dillen was, he saw generic characters where those venerated masters and very high authorities had overlooked them; and then, severely just and strongly conservative man which every critical or controversial page of his exhibits him, he stands up to proclaim the genius and defend the rights of other botanists a hundred years dead, and whose works are thrust aside, now in his time, as antiquated.

It is true we should not now call l'Obel or Dodoens profound systematic botanists; but each of these authors gave his account of the type before us, under the name *Myosuros*, accompanied by a very clear wood-cut of the plant; and many other authors of succeeding decades followed them.

The genus should be credited to l'Obel (1576). A century later than his time it became the fashion to call the plant a species of *Ranunculus*, and then came the great "Dillenius" to its rescue as a generic unit.

The name is, of course, but the early and apparently universal vernacular of "mouse-tail," put into Greek; and Linné, in selecting a specific name for it, allowed his fancy to dwell upon the fact that, for a mouse's tail, it was a very small one, hence our *Myosurus minimus*. Little did he dream that at some future day a half dozen species would be known, and that then *maximus* would seem a better name than *minimus* for the original one, which is the largest of them all.

A new Variety of Aralia nudicaulis, L.

For several years I have found a variety of the above so different from the type as to deserve a special description. It differs from *A. nudicaulis* in being larger, in having many added leaflets, and, more than all, in having most of its flowers in compound umbels from the first division of the scape.

Aralia nudicaulis, L., var. PROLIFERA, n. var. Plant smooth and nearly stemless; leaf solitary, decompound, palmately about twice ternate, the divisions generally pinnate into threes or fives; one division often consisting of a single leaflet; leaflets, twenty-five to forty, oblong-obovate, acuminate, finely serrate; scape with three or four primary divisions, the latter having many rays 6″ to 15″ long, forming umbels; the short rays bearing single flowers, the long ones umbelets of many (ten to thirty) flowers each; the umbelets on each plant varying in number from five to seventy. Near Lambertville, New Jersey.

AUSTIN G. APGAR, Trenton, N. J.

A Point in Nomenclature.

There can be no question that the specific name to be borne by our species of *Cliftonia* is that given to it originally by Gærtner, namely, *Cliftonia nitida*. Its synonymy in brief is as follows:

Cliftonia nitida, Gærtn., fil., Fruct., iii., 247, t. 225, fig. 5 (1805).

Ptelea monophylla, Lam., Ill., i., 336 (1791). This long remained a puzzle, though correctly solved by Nuttall (Gen., i., 104). Jussieu (Mem. Rut., 127) suspected it to be a species of *Rumex*.

Milocaryum ligustrinum, Willd., Enum., 454 (1807).

"*Waltheria Caroliniensis*, Fras., Cat."

Cliftonia ligustrina, Spreng., Syst., 2, 316 (1825).

SERENO WATSON.

Index to Recent American Botanical Literature.

Botanical Estrays.—T. H. McBride. (Amer. Nat., xxi., pp. 572–573.)

Mr. McBride records the discovery of two species of *Lycopodium* at Iowa City; none have hitherto been reported from the State.

Carices of Pennsylvania—A List of the. (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci., Phila., 1887, pp. 68-80; advance sheets. Also reprinted, pamph., 8vo., pp. 12.)

Professor Porter enumerates 98 species and 24 varieties of *Carex*, an unexpectedly large number for a single State. We doubt if New York has as many, and the number exceeds those detected in New Jersey by at least fifteen. Full localities are given by counties. Pennsylvania is the southern limit of several species, among them *C. pauciflora*, Lightf., *C. retrorsa*, Schweinitz, *C. vulgaris*, Fries, *C. Magellanica*, Lam., *C. arctata*, Boott., and *C. chordorhiza*, Ehrh., while it is the most northern habitat of *C. Shortiana*, Dewey. Prof. Porter contends for the specific rank of his *C. Smithii*, and describes the following new varieties: *C. granularis*, Muhl., var. *Haleana*, *C. tetanica*, Schk. vars. *Canbyi* and *Carteri*.